



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 17, 1992

Mr. Robert Giddings
General Counsel
The University of Texas System
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2981

OR92-499

Dear Mr. Giddings:

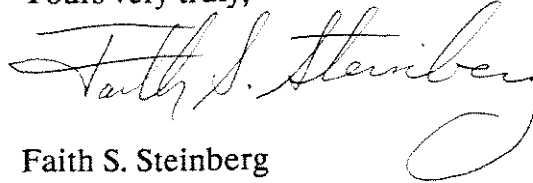
You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 15432.

The information concerned consists of a report issued by a subcommittee of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, which you inform us is a committee "formed pursuant to federal regulations by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston." You claim that the report is confidential under Health and Safety Code section 161.032 and is therefore excepted from public disclosure by section 3(a)(1) of the Open Records Act. The Health and Safety Code provision makes confidential the records and proceedings of a "medical committee." A medical committee for purposes of the statute is defined as, *inter alia*, "any committee . . . of . . . a university medical school or health science center." *Id.* § 161.031(a)(3). Accordingly, we conclude that you may withhold the requested information. See *Terrell State Hospital v. Ashworth*, 794 S.W.2d 937, 939 (Tex. App. - Dallas 1990).

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with

a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-499.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Faith S. Steinberg". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

Faith S. Steinberg
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

FSS/lmm

Ref.: ID# 15432
ID# 15830